

July 2001
JOURNAL

JULY AGENDA

Town Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Worksession immediately following

Jendell's Proposal for Rinaldi Property
Ahern property (3920 Baltimore St.) request for new curb cut
Sunoco – Modification to special exception plans
Montgomery County Police Report on the cut-through traffic enforcement study

Meeting Schedule

August 27, 7:00 p.m. Town Meeting followed by Work Session

Notice of Postponement

Board of appeals Hearing – 3802 Washington St.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895.
Phone: 301-949-2424 FAX: 301-949-4925, E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org.

Mayor's Report

This meeting was the last meeting of the fiscal year. The Mayor expressed gratitude to each Council Member for their efforts throughout the past year.

As of July 1, 2001, Frank O'Donnell and Chris Tucker concluded their term as Council Members for the Town of Kensington. Mayor Raufaste and Council Members Bruch and Pfautz thanked both Frank O'Donnell and Chris Tucker for their time and efforts. They have been team players and contributed to the improvements we currently see in our Town. Both Frank and Chris were very considerate and gracious to offer their assistance when called upon.

Chris Tucker has been active in overseeing the redevelopment of our Town playgrounds. He's attended hearings on behalf of the Town, participated in Town events and when called upon by other Council Members, was always there to give a helping hand.

Frank O'Donnell was responsible for overseeing our financial responsibilities. He's spent countless hours researching and developing two major pieces of legislation, massage establishments and property management ordinances. He's also attended numerous hearings and testified when required on behalf of the Town.

Chris Bruch has been President Pro Tem of the Council for three years. He's worked with Department of Public Works giving recommendations on street and sidewalk work. Chris was responsible for developing the sign and snow removal ordinances. He has been active on several committees for the Town and always pitching in when needed. We congratulate him on completing the Leadership Montgomery Program this year.

Leanne Pfautz chaired the traffic and safety committee for two years. This committee has spent a multitude of hours in meetings to resolve problems relating to these two areas of concern.

We would like to thank Lorraine Kennedy and Anne Pfautz, two devoted citizens for donating their time with the preparation of the Town Journal as well as working as receptionists in meeting and greeting people at our front desk. Your wonderful smiles and support is very much appreciated.

We also thank Caitlin and Tracy Furman who, for the last two years, have been delivering the Town Journal to the entire residential area on the west side of Connecticut Avenue. Thank you Caitlin and Tracy for your time and dedication to our Town.

Our annual Fourth of July Bike Parade was once again a success, and the best we've ever had because of the skillful coordination of Margaret Fitzgerald. This was the sixth year that Margaret has directed this event. Thank you Margaret!

We want to express our gratitude to Ranelle Bruch for planning our Town picnic, which unfortunately was rained out. However, much time was spent in planning by Ranelle and we appreciate her volunteering her help this year.

To each of you who have helped on each event this year, a hearty “**THANK YOU**” from all of us living and working in the Town of Kensington.

The Mayor is most appreciative for the endeavors made by Louise Hamilton and Shirley Watson in going the extra mile to help keep Town Hall running during the last several months in the absence of a Clerk Treasurer. We hope to have this position filled by the end of July.

Council Member Sharman's Report

I attended the Annual Convention of the Maryland Municipal League (MML). The MML represents over 150 municipal governments in Maryland and approximately 800 officials attended this year's convention. The sessions I attended included: Orientation for Newly Elected Officials, Grant Resources for Revitalization and Infrastructure Work, Business and Economic Development Programs, Revitalizing Commercial Areas, The Impact of Smart Codes on Downtown Revitalization and Historic Preservation, Structure of Government, and Ethics.

On July 2, I participated in an Organizational Meeting of the Mayor and Council and was sworn into office at that time. My Council assignment will be Parks & Trees.

I drafted a Town Park Evaluation Form. The form can be used by residents and Town staff to assess the condition of the Town's parks. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to evaluate our parks or have any specific comments or concerns.

I am reviewing the work plans and estimates for the path/track and basketball court repaving in St. Paul Park.

Council Member Pfautz's Report

Special Traffic Survey on Armory Avenue. You may have noticed county police officers on Armory Avenue and Warner Street the first part of June. These officers were conducting a special county study on the impact of traffic enforcement.

Traffic Enforcement. Over the past month, county officers have been doing some traffic enforcement for us at certain intersections in Town that restrict traffic flow from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. We thank them for their time and support. We also thank the following residents for their willingness to conduct surveys at three intersections in Town: Ginny Largent, Dustin Finney, Charley Haughney, Meredith Erikson, Cindy Conant, Alison Oppenheim, Bret Gates, Julia Binder, Steve Cohen, Lynn Raufaste, Barry Peoples, and Sabina Emerson. Their efforts were instrumental in getting this extra help

from our county officers. Please remember all restrictions on Town streets apply to residents as well as others.

Noise Control. Last year, a new state law was enacted that increased the maximum fine for motorists who drive around with booming stereo systems from \$50.00 to \$500.00. Please help us pass the word about this important quality of life measure.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

July 2, 2001

Mayor Raufaste administered the oath of office to Council Members Barbara Scharman and Glenn Cowan. The Council met and determined areas of responsibilities for the coming year.

The following was agreed upon unanimously:

- Council Member Chris Bruch will continue to be responsible for Infrastructure.
- Council Member Leanne Pfautz 's responsibility will move to Budget and Finance.
- Council Member Glenn Cowan will be in charge of Traffic and Safety.
- Council Member Barbara Scharman will be responsible for Parks and Trees.

We all welcome the new members of the Council and look forward to fresh ideas and continued cooperation among our elected officials.

Howard Avenue

Howard Avenue is advancing reasonably well. There were issues of safety pertaining to pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Montgomery County required the contractors to take measures to improve safety during construction.

A problem of drainage in front of Aunt Betty's General Store had to be corrected. The bump out had to be downsized and the handicap ramp removed in order to improve the water flow going east on Howard Avenue.

Trees and shrubs will be planted in late fall. You will see quite an improvement when the entire Phase II is completed.

Ernest Memorial

A company has been selected to construct a new memorial. They estimate eight to twelve weeks to complete the work. The memorial will be replaced with the same material, Indiana Limestone, and finished with the same details and dimensions.

The delay in the replacement of the new memorial is due to the complexity of the design. Therefore, the installation is projected for early 2002.

The debris will be removed in mid-July.

COMMUNITY CRIME ALERT

- Reports of gypsy burglars
It is recommended by the police to keep all doors (home and vehicles) locked.
- Recently there have been several residential burglaries in which the rear sliding glass doors were broken out. **Please report any suspicious persons in your area to the police immediately. Non-emergency (301) 279-8000.**
- **Officer Dana Mathis, Community Service Officer, 2nd District Station,** encourages residents to have a home security survey completed. A home security survey is an in-depth, on-site examination of a residential property to assess its security weakness and make appropriate recommendations for improving these weaknesses. If anyone is interested, please contact Officer Mathis at **(301) 657-0119.**

Announcements

Director of Public Works Mark Joel is on disability leave. He fell in March and injured his back. Mr. Joel will be on leave for several weeks while his condition is being evaluated. In Mr. Joel's absence Mr. Jamie Simms will be Acting Director. We ask your patience as we try to keep Public Works running smoothly.

Residents who live in the Historic District and are planning to do any type of alterations, removal of trees, etc. must contact 301-563-3400 for information in obtaining permits
